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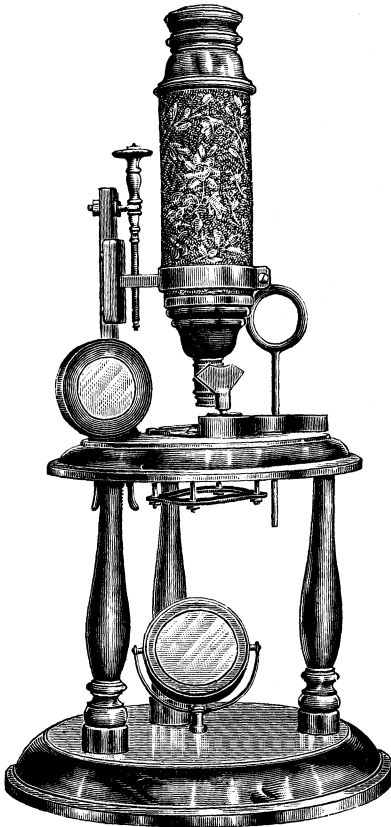
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***NOTE ON A MICROSCOPE PRESENTED BY LINNÆUS  
TO BERNARD JUSSIEU IN 1738.***

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BY JACOB F. HENRICI.

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The microscope herewith presented for the inspection of the American Society of Microscopists was found in a lumber-room of the Harmony Society, a German community at Economy, Pennsylvania. It contains, in a drawer at the base of the stand, a Latin inscription, signed by Bernard Jussieu, setting forth that he received the instrument from his very dear friend Linnæus, as a gift of friendship, in lasting memory of the pleasant intercourse which they had at Paris in the month of August, 1738.

The microscope is said by the present aged members of the Harmony Society to have belonged formerly to Frederick Rapp, one of the founders of the Society, who came to America from Germany in 1804, and who died at Economy in 1834. He was a man of considerable

culture, and much of the prosperity of the community was due to his intellectual activity. No one now knows when or how the instrument came into his possession, or what use he made of it.

The body of the microscope is of pasteboard, or *papier-mâché*, with wooden mountings, and fixed vertically on a wooden stand. It is provided with a draw-tube, and the adjustment is by means of a screw. Ten objectives accompany the instrument, each consisting of a single lens, ranging in focal distance from about one-quarter of an inch to an inch. The lenses range in diameter from six millimetres to a centimetre; but when in position they are stopped down by brass caps to an aperture of about two millimetres diameter. Unfortunately one of the lenses of the eye-piece is lacking, and in order to exhibit the power of the instrument, I have replaced it for the moment by a corresponding lens from my working microscope. No maker's name appears on any part of the instrument.

The inscription, in full, is as follows:

Audax Iapeti genus

Ignem fraude malâ gentibus intulit

Nil mortalibus arduum.

Hor. Carm. Lib. I. 3.

In perpetuam memoriam

consuetudinis quam cum

dulcissimo suo sodali

Carolus Linne Parisiis

habebat hoc ab eo amicitiae

donum accepit, mense

Augusto, MDCCXXXVIII

Bernardus Jussieu.

Aside from the interest attaching to this microscope from its association with two of the great scientific workers of the last century, it is encouraging to compare our microscopes of to-day with this crude instrument, which Jussieu deemed worthy of the admiration expressed in Horace's line: "Nil mortalibus arduum."